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THE OBSERVATOR.

More Articles against Laud. *The* Country-man's *Observations upon 'em. Of Partiality in Prosecutions of Authors.*

From **Wednesday** May the 31st, to **Saturday** June the 3d, 1704.

Country-m. NOW, Master *Observator*, some more Articles against Arch-Bishop *Laud*. The Letter I brought you the last Time we met plainly shows the Zeal of the Party, and the *Affection* they bear to the Pious *Popish* Memory of their great Apostle.

Obs. Thou art always drawing me into a Snare; I have almost as many Articles Exhibited against me, as I have told you against *Laud*. The Party will never forgive me; they say now they have Nail'd me down as dead as a Herring, I must never expect to rise more.

Country-m. Ay, ay, I look'd into Court and saw the Fellows Grinning at you. What were those Fellows that sat on their Arses like Taylors, and Laugh'd like *Ninny-Hammers?* I hope you did nt give 'em any thing for Laughing, did you?

Obs. Prithee Man, I don't care one Farthing who they were, let the *Fools* Laugh, the *Knaves* Snarl, and the *Asses* Bray; I am very well satisfy'd as long as we have good Judges on the Bench, from whom, I can assure you, I received no Hardship, and had all the Priviledges the Law would allow granted me, to the Mortification of some People I saw in Court.

Country-m. I did but just peep into Court and I heard the Man that read the Information against you mention my Name two or three Times, thinks I they have brought the *Country-m.* in for a Snack, and so I e'en rub'd off; you know you and I must not be in the Powdering-Tub at one Time. But I heard Mr. *Councellor*, the *Lawyer*, Plead very hard, and I prick'd up my Ears to know how they fell out, and in my Silly Judgment the Case was thus, a *Verb* stood Indicted for killing a *Nominative Case*. Pray did the Jury find the *Verb* Guilty of *Noun-Slaughter?*

Obs. Prithee don't trouble my Head about Law, thou'lt have thy Belly-full of it in a little Time; wilt thou have any more of *Laud?*

Country-m. Yes, yes, with all my Soul; that tends to Edification.

Obs. Then I'll proceed. Another Article against this precious Saint and Martyr of *High-Church* was, That he had Traiterously endeavoured to alter and subvert Gods true Religion, by Law Established in this Kingdom; and instead thereof to set up *Popish Superstition* and *Idolatry*, that he had adjoyned divers *Popish* and *Superstitious* Ceremonies, and that he had contrary to Law, Persecuted such as would not Conform to them by divers Corporal Punishments, Imprisonments and other Extrajudicial Proceedings.

Country-m. And this *Laud* wan't a *Papist?* No by no means; and those that cry him up for a Saint and Martyr they are not *Papists* neither; are they? No by no means; they are as Sober and Vertuous as a Devil of two Years old; they are as Chaste as my Grandmothers Cow, and she went to Bull till her Tail drop'd off.

Obs. Another Article against him was, That he did procure to himself the Nomination of sundry Persons to *Ecclesiastical Dignities, Promotions* and *Benefices*, belonging to His Majesty, and divers of the Nobility, Clergy, and others, such as had been *Popishly* Affected, or otherwise Unsound and Corrupt both in Doctrine and Manners.

Country-m. And by this means the Prince is Evil spoken of, on the Account of the worthless and useless Creatures that are Prefer'd by his Favourites.

Obs. That he had chosen and employed such Men to be his own Domestick Chaplains, whom he knew to be Notoriously Disaffected to the Reformed Religion, grosly adicted to *Popish Superstition*, and Erroneous, and Unsound both in Judgment and Practice, and having committed to them the Licencing of Books, many *False* and *Superstitious* Books had been Published.

Country-m. I'll warrant it if this *Laud* had been Living, he or his Chaplains would have Licens'd the *Exorbitant-Grant-Mans* Book.

Obs. That Book had no need of a Licence, tho' there was so much said in that Book against the Government, Her Majesties Title to the Crown, and the *Protestant Succession*; yet you see there has been no such long Catalogue of Crimes Read in Court against him, as was Read against me; and tho' I was Promis'd to have more Informations brought against me the next Term, I did not hear a Word of Persecution against any Book of this Nature.

Country-m. Well, 'tis a good thing to be a *Papish*, the *Exorbitant-Grants-Man* was a *Roguing Catholick*; they are Brave Fellows in some Peoples Eyes.

Obs. He got his Liberty out of Goal, where he lay under a Fine for Writing against the Government. You see the Odds.

Country-m. And you that have Written in defence of Her Majesties Title and Government are Prosecuted, I was going to say, with as much Malice as can be.

Obs. All this will signifie but very little Hundred Years hence.

Country-m. I don't know but it may signifie something now, I have so much Faith as to believe, that I shall see some of your Enemies hang'd.

Obs. It may be so; for I tell thee and them, that whoever shall break thro' the Laws of *England* to come at me, will in the end break their own Necks; and that I know the due time when to show Offenders to Justice.

Country-m. Justice ought to be done to every Body, as well to the Low as the High. I protest, I daily expected that some great Minister of State would have recommended you to Her Majesties favour, since you have so Vigorously Vindicated Her Majesties Title to the Throne against *Papists* and *High-Flyers*; but instead of that you are Prosecuted, and they are favoured.

Obs. That's none of Her Majesties fault, but the Actions of those under Her in Relation to things

of

of this Nature, may cauſe a Suſpicion in the unthinking Populace, who cannot ſo well diſtinguiſh the Deſigns of Parties when they are entruſted with the Sluces of Government; and can Drown whom they pleaſe: And thus by their *Malice*, *Avarice*, and *Self Intereſt*, the beſt of Princes may be Evil ſpoken of.

Country-m. I fancy it makes the worſe for you, that you are of no Party, but are a down-right *Engliſhman* in all Reigns; were you of a Party, then you'd have ſome Patrons.

Obſ. I have the beſt Patron that can be, even Juſtice it ſelf; and I have the beſt ſupport, a good Conſcience to defend me againſt the Malice of mine Enemies.

Country-m. Ay, ay, but I mean great Men. The *Cabal* of *Libellers*, that wrote *The Letters from the Living to the Living*, have Dedicated their *Bawdy*, *Blaſphemy*, and *Treaſon* to a Member. They are ſafe, for I don't know who will venture upon them, under the hazard of a Breach of Priviledge. There's the *Exorbitant-Grants-Man* he had.

Obſ. Hold, Honeſt *Country-man*, that's not to be ſpoken, we ſhall run too far in this Diſcourſe; but in a Word I'll tell thee, That ſince I am made the only Criminal in a Scribling Capacity, I ſhall ſatisfie the World how much Her Majeſty and Government has been Abuſed by partial Proceedings in this Nature, how ill She is ſerv'd by ſome Perſons Employ'd under Her, which will be a piece of Juſtice done Her Majeſty and the Nation.

Country-m. I would not have you find Fault with Officers; perhaps theſe Partial Proſecutions are not done out of any Sinifter or Evil Deſign. It may be the Fault of Nature and not the Perſons. I tell you the Hog cannot Smell out a *Papiſt* or *Pirkinite* ſo eaſie as he can a *Proteſtant*; his *Tuſhes* were made on purpoſe to Goar *Proteſtants*. The Fellow with the Fools Face on his Paper, was Preſented the laſt Seſſions ſave one for Writing of *Bawdy* and *Blaſphemy*, which was as much as the Honeſt Citizens could do; but you ſee there's no Body to Proſecute him; he's of ſome Party too I'll warrant him. Unhappy Maſter *Obſervator*, ſtanding alone on the Baſis of *Truth*, like the *Noun Subſtantive* of *Truth* and *Honeſty*.

Obſ. You muſt underſtand that Proſecutions many times happen according to the Inclination, the Love, or Malice of the Proſecutor; ſometimes a Silver or Gold Rub over-turns the Wheels of Juſtice, or at leaſt puts a ſpoke in them: Now I have none of theſe Ways and Means.

Country-m. I know what you mean; ſome Peoples Paper *Kits* fly out of Sight, and they catch yours by the Tail at every Turn; you are Rough and they are Slippery, they have ſuch a way with 'em 'twould make a Dog break his Halter to ſee it.

Obſ. The Thing is Viſible enough. Why are not the Authors of ſome Books found out; and thoſe that are found, why are not they Puniſh'd? You have now a Proclamation for the Diſcovery of the *Author*, *Printer* and *Publiſher* of the *Legion Addreſs*, and other Papers are Talk'd off; one is gone to ſee his *Uncle* in the Country, and another is gone a *Nutting* before the *Nutts* are Ripe; and I fancy ſome Body knew their Guilt before they took a Country Journey; but *Tace* is Lattin for a Candle in a Silver Mold.

Country-m. Well, well, the *Landites* have found your however, and they'll pay you off for raking in the Aſhes of their great Apoſtle.

Obſ. So let 'em if they will: I ſhall tell yo little more of their *Strand* Martyr; another ticle againſt whom was, That he had Traiter ly and Wickedly endeavour'd to Reconcile *Church of England* with the *Church of Rome*; a for the effecting thereof, hath Comforted Confederated with divers *Popiſh Prieſts* and *Je ites*; and had kept ſecret Intelligence with *Pope* of *Rome*, and by himſelf, his Agents and ſtruments Treated with ſuch as have from the received Authority and Inſtruction. He ha Permitted Countenanced a *Popiſh Hierarchy*, or *cleſiaſtical Government* to be Eſtabliſhed in t Kingdom. By all which Trayterous and Mali ous Practiſes this Church and Kingdom ha been exceedingly endangered, and like to fall u der the Tyranny of the *Roman See*.

Country-m. Why, this High Prieſt was as ug a Creature as *Leſlys Wolf*. He the Head of t Church! His Head ought to have been plac'd o the Top of the Steeple.

Obſ. You have blunder'd on the *Scots Levi* whoſe *Laudean* Principles has made him recom mend to the World *Occaſional Conformity* to t *Church of Rome*; and it has been and is the ende vour of the *Non-Juring Clergy* to Reconcile t *Church of England* to the *Church of Rome*. Wha Reaſons they have for Judging it Practicable a this time I cann't tell: But, ſure I am, theſe No tions were never more advanced in my time tha at this Juncture.

Country-m. Pray Maſter did not this *Laud* Per ſecute all ſuch as Wrote againſt the *Papiſt* in tha time? Did he not *Bill* 'em, and *Crown-Office* 'em?

Obſ. Yes, yes, 'twas objected againſt him at hi Tryal, Men that have Power enough to be *Rogue* in a Government, have alſo Power enough to Puniſh ſuch as ſhall call 'em ſo.

If you take a ſtrict view of *Proſecutions* and *In formations* againſt Authors, the *Proſecutors* Pop One Word for the King, but Two for themſelves

If you Write of Miſmanagements, tho' Viſible and Oppreſſive to the whole Kingdom, they ſay you Write againſt the State.

If you ſee a great Knave in a little Office running away with abundance of the Nations Money, and if you cry out ſtop Thief, they'l uſe you as the Quaker did the Dog; give you an ill Name, ſay you are a Traytor to the Queen for ſpeaking againſt the Knaves that have wriggl'd themſelves into Her Service.

If you ſpeak againſt the *Nonjurant-Tantivy*, *High-Flying-Popiſh Prieſthood*; Oh, then the Church, the Church is in danger, as if the Church and State were to be ſupported by Knaves of one ſort or other.

Country-m. This is true. But we have both of us ſpoken too much Truth, and you are likely to ſuffer for it.

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